

A
P L A N
OF THE
S C H O O L

Now opened in

OXMANTOWN.

Dublin, January 13th, 1751-2.

X D U B L I N:

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IT is in the first Place provided, that this School shall consist of six Forms, and one Master at a sufficient Sallary to each; whose Business it shall be to instruct the Youth under his Care, agreeable to a Plan, digested from the Plans of the several Schools and smaller Academies subsisting in *England* and elsewhere.

By this Regulation, I humbly presume, the young Gentlemen will be better and more accurately instructed, than it is possible they should be in the common Method. For every Gentleman that considers it will allow, that the Instruction even of twenty Boys, divided into five or six different Forms; each Form reading a different Author, perhaps two or three in the Day, must distract the Mind of the Tutor, and render him in some Measure incapable of giving that constant and diligent Attendance that is absolutely necessary to the Improvement of each Pupil.

But when the Youths of each Form are under the immediate Tuition of one, and the same Master, whose whole Attention is employed in their Instruction alone, 'tis evident they will be more amply improved; because the Tutor interfering with no other Class, will have sufficient Time to examine the minute Particulars in every Lesson with Accuracy.

Another Advantage will accrue to the Boys from this Regulation; that their Masters, besides the Hours of examining, will have Time sufficient to lead their Pupils gradually, in an easy and concise Way of learning a Language; and when any Difficulty arises, may easily point out the necessary Connection between the several Parts of a Sentence, according to the Grammar Rules; for tho' this is little regarded in the ordinary Method, yet upon Trial it will be found greatly to facilitate their Progress in Learning.

The young Gentlemen are to be admitted into this School as early as possible, that they may learn the Rudiments of their Mother Tongue in a pure Manner, before that Quaintness and Impropriety which are frequently imbibed at the common *English* Schools, have sunk too deep to be eradicated.

A Master well qualified will be entertained for this especial Purpose.

All that enter in one Year, to be of one Form, and a Master to be chosen annually, till the Number be compleat.

After they have learned the Rudiments of the *English* Tongue, and read the five Books of *Moses*, and are able to give some Account of the most material Parts of that History, then and not before, they shall be admitted to the first Form, where their principal Business will be to learn the necessary Rules of Grammar, and to acquire as distinct and clear Pronunciation as they are capable of.

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Their next Employment will be to obtain a compleat Knowledge of the Grammar, and the Method so long successfully pursued at *Eaton*, will be carefully followed.

When they are competent Masters of *English* and *Latin* Prose, they will be taught from some modern Author, the Use of Globes and Maps, ancient and modern, and afterwards be instructed in the *Greek* Tongue, with as much Care as was used in the *Latin*. Thus the Difficulties of Grammar being conquered, and the Way prepared for them, those Authors which are now counted hard will be easy and pleasant.

Before every *Christmas*, a publick Examination will be had of each Form, and to encourage Diligence and Genius, such as shall be found qualified for it, shall be removed to the lower Division of the Form immediately above him.

Two Divisions in each Form.

At every such Examination, a Premium in Books will be given to the most deserving in the Divisions of every Form.

In order to form their Morals, the strictest Care will be taken to instruct them early in the Being and Attributes of God; in the revealed Law, and the Law of Nature; in the Imperfection of the latter, and the consequent Necessity of the former. To this End, they will be made to read the best Heathen and Christian Authors, viz. *Grotius*, *Cicero*, &c.

Such as become Boarders will all lodge in the same House with their Masters, and will constantly be attended by some or other of these in their very Amusements, which will prevent in a great Measure, their Passions or Weakness of Judgment from leading them astray.

It has been complained of a long Time, that in the ordinary Method of educating the Youth of this Nation, little Care has been taken to form their Speech, and accustom them early to deliver themselves with a decent and proper Address on any Subject: The Want of which Accomplishment is of too general Note to need a more particular Comment.

To remedy this Defect, a Person skilled in Oratory, will be provided at a sufficient Sallary, whose Business will be sometimes to read and repeat to the young Gentlemen, select Speeches out of the best Authors, and to hear them read and speak after him.

So soon as they have advanced to the third Form, it shall be his Business to give them Questions of Debate, and enure them to reply, to accuse, and defend. By these Means they will come better prepared to that School of Eloquence, now proposed by an ingenious and learned Gentleman to be established in our University.

A Premium as in other Parts of Learning will be given annually to the best Speaker in every Form.

Two Boys, Sons of Clergymen, or failing these, of reputable Families, well recommended, will be received annually into this School, and boarded and educated at free Cost, so soon as forty Boarders have entered, and will be continued while that Number is preserved; and all future Masters will be elected out of these, provided they be found qualified, the most deserving without Partiality to be preferred, their Merit upon a Vacancy to be determined by an Examination by the acting Masters, particular Regard being always had to their moral Characters: But no one to be admitted to such Examination, till he has taken the Degree of Batchellor of Arts in the University of *Dublin*.

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Till the Number of Boarders above mentioned is compleated, they shall however be admitted to all the Benefits of Education, their Boarding at free Cost alone excepted.

For the better Observance of this Article, and to establish it for ever, no future Master shall arrive to the Station of Superior, before he has given Security to such Trustees as shall hereafter be appointed for that Purpose, for the due Observance of it.

The Masters will rise according to Seniority, and their Seniority will be accounted from the Time of their Entrance into this School.

Tho' this Scheme will be attended with more Expence than the usual Method of Education, yet the Undertaker of it requires no higher Premium than what is common in other Schools: Only it is expected that no Person will take it amiss that each Boy will be fined one *British* Half-crown yearly, to raise a Fund for the annual Premiums.

And also that some Acknowledgment be made yearly by the Parents or Guardians of each Boy to the Master, under whose immediate Care the Child has been for that Year, adequate to the Service he has done him; but this will be left to the Judgment of every such Parent or Guardian.

As this Plan is calculated for the publick Good; it is further proposed that the young Gentlemen who become Boarders, shall at a proper Age be instructed in Writing, Arithmetick, Geometry, *French*, Dancing, Fencing, Designing and Drawing; or in such of them as are most proper for them. The best Masters will be employed at fixed Sallaries for each particular Branch: Which Sallaries, by a small additional Expence

pence to every Boy, where the Number is great, will easily be raised.

The Publick may rest assured of the due Execution of this Plan, as no Person will be admitted to become a Preceptor, but such whose moral Character as well as Ability in each peculiar Science, are sufficiently established and known; and the Whole shall be conducted by the best Rules that can be collected either from Experience or the Writings of Ancients and Moderns.

The Proposer of this Scheme has long wished to see something of this Kind set on Foot, as well for the Credit as the Advantage of his Country; for he cannot but esteem it a Reproach, as well as a publick Loss, that our Nobles and Gentlemen send their Children to Countries where no Care is taken of them, and where they learn Manners and Fashions very foreign to the Good of their own Country.

The Intention therefore of the Proposer in publishing these Hints, is not so much to inform the Publick of his own Design, as to inspire others to undertake so laudable a Task, to excite Men of greater Abilities and better Opportunities; too many of whom are unemployed in every Corner of the Island, while a Swarm of Foreigners devour those Stations of Profit and Honour which these Natives should inherit by Birth-right: They will soon find that their Labour is not lost, while their unwearied Industry shall redeem the Honour of their Country; correct the Defects in Education, and establish Knowledge and Virtue among us.

Such future Additions and Amendments shall be made to this Plan, as shall be approved by Gentlemen of Sense and Learning, whose kind Assistance herein is humbly requested by their humble Servant.